



# Yosemite Guide

Where to Go and What to Do in Yosemite National Park

April 10, 2013 - May 21, 2013

Giant Sequoias Photo by Christine White Loberg



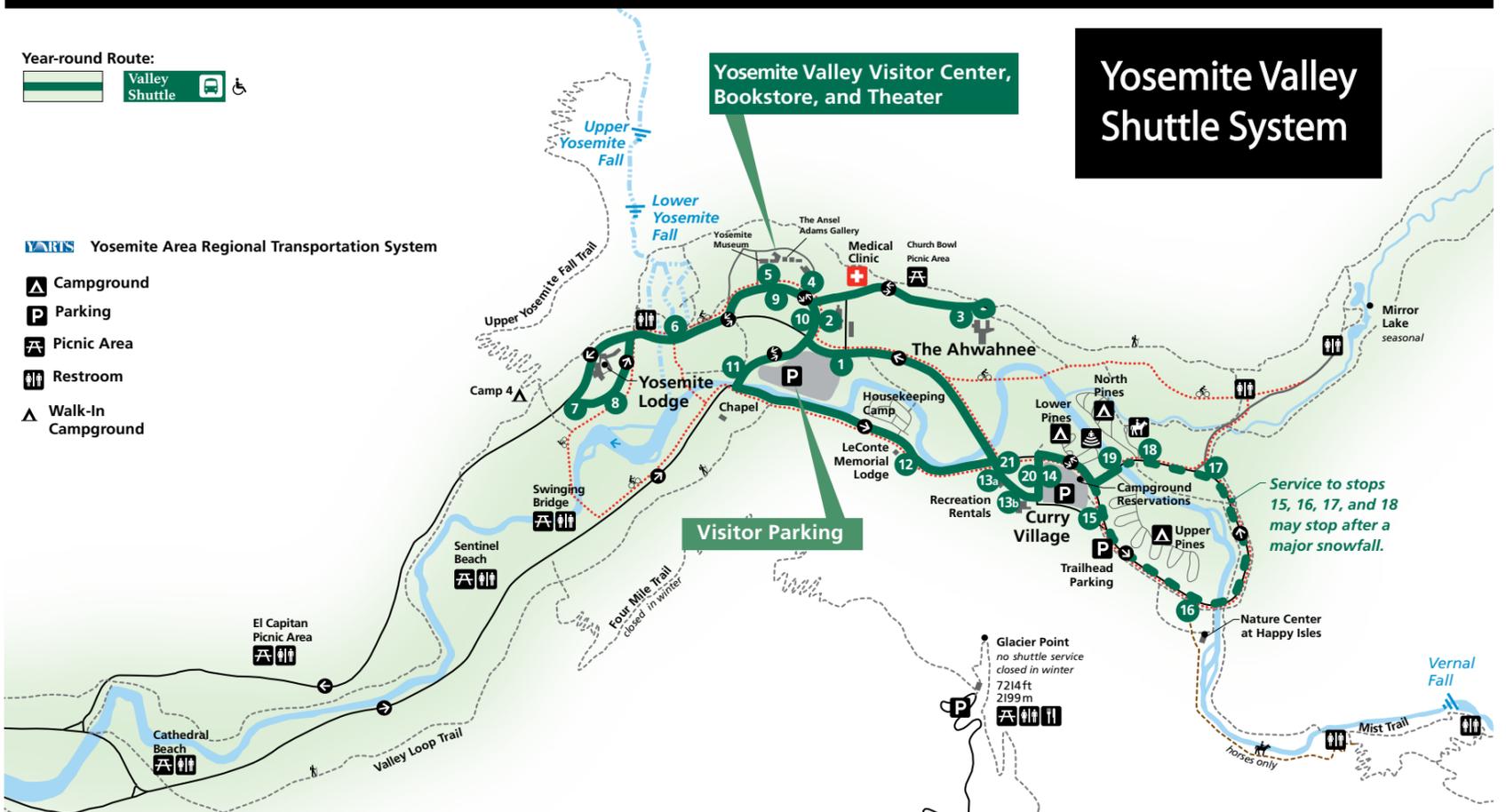
Experience Your America Yosemite National Park

Volume 38, Issue 3

Experience Your America Yosemite National Park

Yosemite Guide April 10, 2013 - May 21, 2013

US Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
PO Box 577  
Yosemite, CA 95389



## Yosemite Valley Shuttle System

Shuttles run daily every 10-20 minutes depending on the time of day. The Valley Visitor Shuttle operates from 7:00am - 10:00pm and serves stops in numerical order.

Stop #	Location	Stop #	Location	Stop #	Location
1	Visitor Parking	8	Yosemite Lodge	16	Happy Isles
2	10 Yosemite Village	11	Sentinel Bridge	17	Mirror Lake Trailhead
3	3 YARS The Ahwahnee	12	LeConte / Housekeeping Camp	18	Stable
4	4 Degnan's Deli	13a	21 Recreation Rentals	19	Pines Campgrounds
5	9 YARS Valley Visitor Center	13b	YARS Curry Village		
6	6 Lower Yosemite Fall	14	20 Curry Village Parking		

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# Seasonal Highlights

*There's more! Check out the Calendar Section for more on special park programs...*

**W**hat do you want to do with your special time in Yosemite? The choice is yours. Here are some popular activities for a day in Yosemite National Park.

**Visiting between April 19 and April 28? Celebrate Earth Day, National Volunteer Day, National Junior Ranger Day, and National Park Week with us!** There's a lot going on in the Park, check out the special Calendar Section of this Guide to help you make the most of your visit!

#### Love Giant Sequoias?

Meet the most massive living trees on earth as you explore a sequoia grove. Yosemite is home to three groves—each within walking distance of a road.

#### ... Help us protect them!

Help plan for future management of the Mariposa Grove! A plan is currently underway to help protect this beautiful grove and improve the visitor experience. Comments can be submitted until May 7th on the Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/mariposagrove>. Comments made through the PEPC website are the preferred method of submission. Comments can also be sent via email to [yose\\_planning@nps.gov](mailto:yose_planning@nps.gov) or via U.S. mail to: Superintendent, Yosemite National Park Attn: Mariposa Grove Restoration Plan, P.O. Box 577, Yosemite, CA 95389. Read more in our feature story on page 10 of the Yosemite Guide.

#### Have Fun with the Family

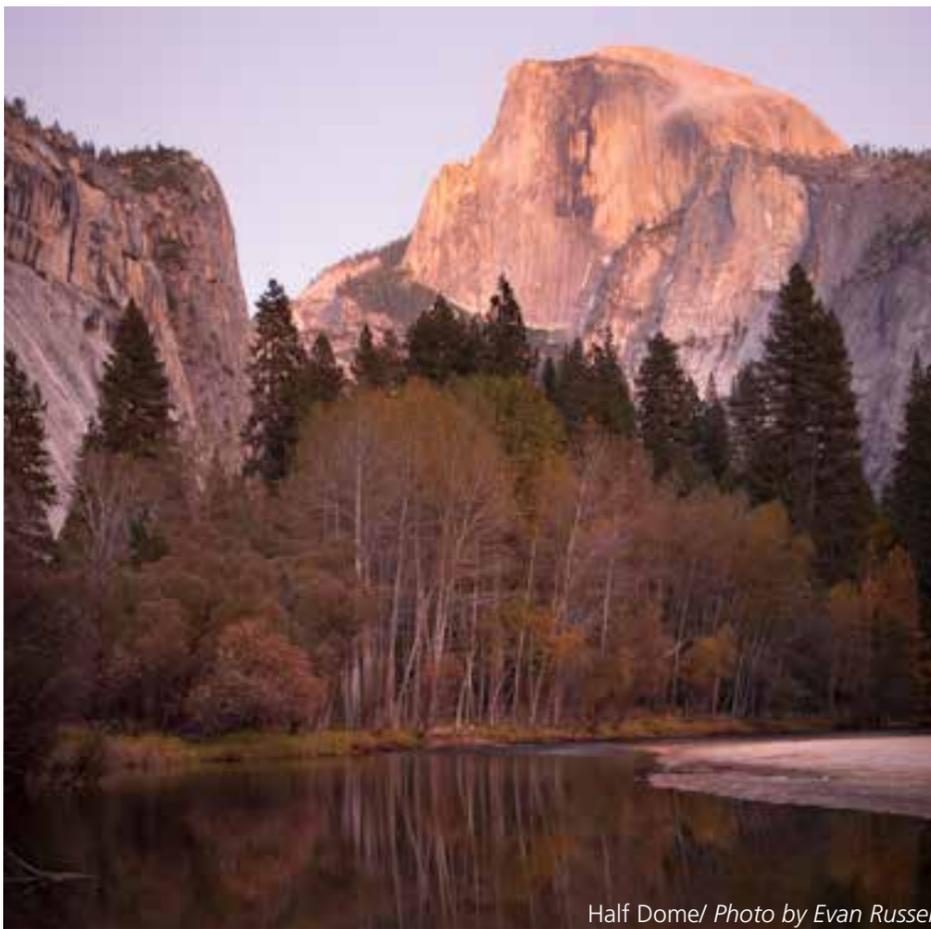
Learn about Yosemite, meet a park ranger, and have a blast by becoming a Yosemite Junior Ranger or Yosemite Little Cub. Check in with any visitor center to find out how. Stop by the Nature Center at Happy Isles for another great place to explore with the family. (Check out the last page of the special Calendar Section for a free Junior Ranger handout!)

#### Visit the Yosemite Museum

Learn about Yosemite Indians by exploring a museum collection that includes remarkable woven baskets and traditional dress. Tour the outdoor Indian Village or talk with an Indian cultural demonstrator. The Yosemite Museum is located in Yosemite Village at shuttle stops #5 and #9. (See page 6.)

#### Stroll with a Ranger

Learn about the wonders of the park on a ranger-guided stroll. Programs are offered daily throughout the park on a variety of topics including waterfalls, trees, bears, geology, Yosemite Indians and more.



Half Dome/ Photo by Evan Russel

Spring in Yosemite means blooming dogwood, rushing waterfalls, and warming temperatures! Enjoy this spring by taking a quiet walk (or an arduous hike) through one of three groves of Giant Sequoias in Yosemite.

#### Hike to Mirror Lake

Situated at the base of Half Dome, the site of Mirror Lake frames reflections of Yosemite's most iconic cliff. The quiet trail is gentle and follows Tenaya Creek as it winds its way through the eastern Valley. The trail starts at shuttle stop #17.

#### Walk to a Waterfall

Yosemite Valley is famous for its awe-inspiring waterfalls; each as distinct as the granite cliffs they dive over. While Yosemite Falls may be dry by August, Bridalveil, Vernal, and Nevada Falls flow all year. (See page 17 for hiking information.)

#### Visit the other valley, Hetch Hetchy

*"Almost an exact counterpart of the Yosemite... a visit to its counterpart may be recommended, if it be only to see how curiously nature has repeated herself."*  
-Josiah D. Whitney.

Hetch Hetchy provides spectacular vistas, waterfalls, and early season hiking. (See page 2 for a park map and area information.)

#### Take a Photography Class

Learn how to best capture the landscape of Yosemite by joining a photography expert from The Ansel Adams Gallery. Several classes are offered each week. Some have fees, some are free. Learn more and sign up at the Ansel Adams Gallery in Yosemite Village. Shuttle stops #5 and #9. (See pages 5 and 6.)

#### Get Outdoors With Yosemite Conservancy

Join a Yosemite Conservancy historian and John Muir actor on an expedition around the Valley to explore where Muir lived and worked or register for a photography adventure to capture the elusive Yosemite Falls moonbow.

#### Looking for a custom Yosemite experience?

Contact us to plan a custom adventure for your family or group. Visit [www.yosemiteconservancy.org/adventures](http://www.yosemiteconservancy.org/adventures) or 209/379-2317 ext. 10 to find your adventure today. See page 6 for more details.

#### Yosemite Theater

Yosemite Theater LIVE! kicks into high gear. Beginning April 30th, Yosemite Search and Rescue returns with their popular and cautionary presentation. Everyone should see this show for their own safety. Beginning May 1st, Lee Stetson opens his 31st year of John Muir performances with "Conversations with a Tramp" on Wednesdays and "John Muir among the Animals" on Thursdays. These virtuoso one-man performances are a must-see for visitors. Legendary climber Ron Kauk hosts his film, "Return to Balance: A Climber's Journey". Ron leads a thought-provoking discussion immediately after the film. Tickets can be purchased in advance at the Valley Visitor Center Bookstore or any Tour Desk, or at the door. See page 6 for details.

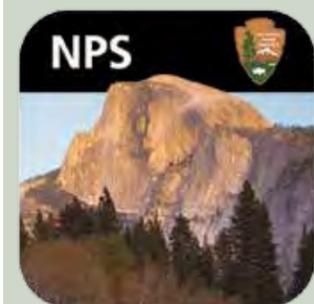
#### Yosemite Art Center Workshops

Yosemite Conservancy invites you to participate in one of our enriching and fun art workshops held Monday through Saturday 10am-2pm. There is a registration fee of \$10 per visitor. Register for sessions in advance by calling 209/372-1442 or drop by. Art supplies, gifts and original art are available for purchase. The Yosemite Art Center is located in Yosemite Village next to the Village Store. Open daily 9am-4:30pm (closed for lunch). See page 6 for more details.

## What's Inside

Page 1	Things to Do
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*Enjoy our special Calendar Section inside this Guide!*



Look for the free **Yosemite Guide Mobile App** available Fall, 2013 for your Apple and Android mobile devices!

Our thanks to The Ansel Adams Gallery Staff Photographer and Curator Evan Russel for providing our icon shot of Half Dome. See full picture, above.

# Discover Yosemite

Let your curiosity guide you to new places

## Entrance Fees

Reservations are NOT required to enter Yosemite.  
The park is open year-round, 24 hours/day.

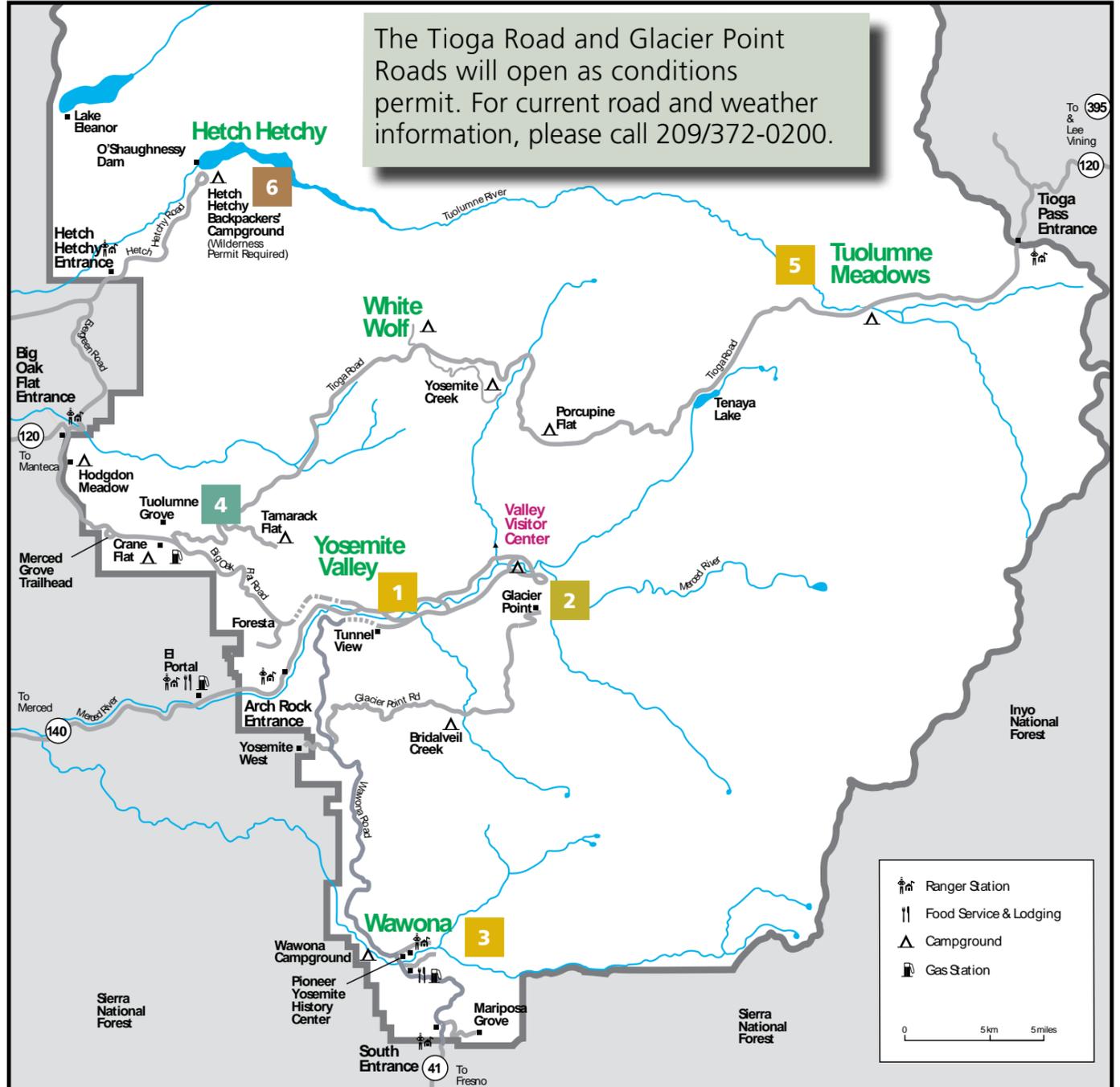
- Vehicle** **\$20**  
Valid for 7 days
- Individual** **\$10**  
In a bus, on foot, bicycle, motorcycle, or horse. Valid for 7 days.
- Yosemite Pass** **\$40**  
Valid for one year in Yosemite.
- Interagency Annual Pass \$80**  
Valid for one year at all federal recreation sites.
- Interagency Senior Pass \$10**  
(Lifetime) For U.S. citizens or permanent residents 62 and over.
- Interagency Access Pass (Free)**  
(Lifetime) For permanently disabled U.S. citizens or permanent residents.
- Interagency Military Pass (Free)**  
(Annual) For active duty U.S. military and dependents.

## Reservations

- Campground Reservations**  
877/444-6777  
[www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov)
- Lodging Reservations**  
801/559-5000  
[www.yosemitepark.com](http://www.yosemitepark.com)

## Regional Info

- Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS)**  
[www.yarts.com](http://www.yarts.com)
- Highway 120 West**  
Yosemite Chamber of Commerce  
800/449-9120 or 209/962-0429  
Tuolumne County Visitors Bureau  
800/446-1333  
[www.tcvb.com](http://www.tcvb.com)
- Highway 41**  
Yosemite Sierra Visitors Bureau  
559/683-4636  
[www.yosemitethisyear.com](http://www.yosemitethisyear.com)
- Highway 132/49**  
Coulterville Visitor Center  
209/878-3074
- Highway 140/49**  
Mariposa County Visitor Center  
866/425-3366 or 209/966-7081
- Yosemite Mariposa County Tourism Bureau**  
209/742-4567  
[www.homeofyosemite.com](http://www.homeofyosemite.com)
- Highway 120 East**  
Lee Vining Chamber of Commerce and Mono Lake Visitor Center, 760/647-6629  
[www.leevining.com](http://www.leevining.com)
- Calif. Welcome Center, Merced**  
800/446-5353 or 209/724-8104  
[www.yosemite-gateway.org](http://www.yosemite-gateway.org)



## Yosemite Valley

**1** Yosemite Valley is world-famous for its impressive waterfalls, cliffs, and unusual rock formations. It is open year round and may be reached via Highway 41 from Fresno, Highway 140 from Merced, Highway 120 west from Manteca, and via the Tioga Road (Highway 120 East) from Lee Vining. The Valley is known for massive cliff faces like El Capitan and Half Dome, its plunging waterfalls including the tallest in North America, and its attractive meadows. While Yosemite Falls will be dry until rain and snow recharge it, a moderate hike will take you to Vernal and Nevada Falls. Yosemite's meadows are great places to see wildlife and to photograph fall colors. Admire El Capitan, the massive granite monolith that stands 3,593 feet from base to summit. Whether you explore the Valley by foot, bike, car, or with a tour, the scenery will leave you breathless and eager to see what's around the next corner.



Granite, the Merced River, trees, and meadows compose the Valley's unique blend. Photo by Christine White Loberg

## Glacier Point Road

**2** Towering 3,214 feet above the Valley floor, Glacier Point offers spectacular views of the Merced River Canyon, including icons like Vernal and Nevada Falls and Half Dome. The Glacier Point Road, and campgrounds along the road, will open as conditions permit. You can get the latest road opening info at the Valley Visitor Center or by calling 209/372-0200.

## Wawona and Mariposa Grove

**3** The Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias is located 36 miles (1¼ hours) south of Yosemite Valley via the Wawona Road (Highway 41), two miles from the park's South Entrance station. The road to the Mariposa Grove is closed from sometime in December to April. The nearby Pioneer Yosemite History Center in Wawona is a collection of historic buildings associated with people and events that shaped the national park idea in Yosemite.

## Crane Flat and Tuolumne Grove

**4** Crane Flat is located 16 miles from Yosemite Valley at the junction of the Big Oak Flat and Tioga Roads. A number of hikes through pleasant meadows are available—when snow covers the ground these turn into delightful ski and snowshoe tracks. To see giant sequoias, park at the Tuolumne Grove parking area located on the Tioga Road, and walk one steep mile down to the Tuolumne Grove of Giant Sequoias. Or, park at Merced Grove trailhead and walk two steep miles down to this small grove. These groves north of Yosemite Valley are smaller than the more-famous Mariposa Grove, but are quieter and off-limits to vehicles. Remember that the walk down is easier than the walk back up.

## Tuolumne Meadows and Tioga Road

**5** Closed to vehicles in the winter, the Tioga Road offers winter adventurers a 39-mile scenic ski or snowshoe past forests, meadows, lakes, and granite domes. The road's elevation ranges from 6,200 to just under 10,000 feet. In winter, Tuolumne Meadows is often reached by skiers from either Yosemite Valley Trailheads or the east entrance of the park by ways of Lee Vining Canyon. Road will open when conditions permit.

## Hetch Hetchy

**6** Hetch Hetchy Reservoir, a source of drinking water and hydroelectric power for the City of San Francisco, is home to spectacular scenery and the starting point for many wilderness trails. The area's low elevation makes it a good place to hike in autumn and winter. Hetch Hetchy Reservoir is located 40 miles from Yosemite Valley via Highway 120 and Evergreen and Hetch Hetchy Roads. Hetch Hetchy Road is open from 8am to 7pm through April 30, then 7am to 9pm through Labor Day. The road is accessible via the Big Oak Flat Road and Evergreen Road and is a 1 hour and 15 minute drive from Yosemite Valley. Trailers, vehicles over 25 feet long, and RVs and other vehicles over 8 feet wide are not allowed on the narrow, winding Hetch Hetchy Road.

### Did You Know?

- Giant sequoias are the third longest-lived tree species with the oldest known specimen to have been 3,266 years old in the Converse Basin Grove of Giant Sequoia National Monument. (*Note: Giant sequoias are only outlived by bristlecone pines—oldest aged at 4,844 years in the Great Basin—and by Alerce trees—oldest aged at 3,639 years in Chile.*) Yosemite's famous Grizzly Giant in the park's Mariposa Grove is best estimated to be 1,800 years old plus or minus a few centuries, which is nothing to a giant sequoia.

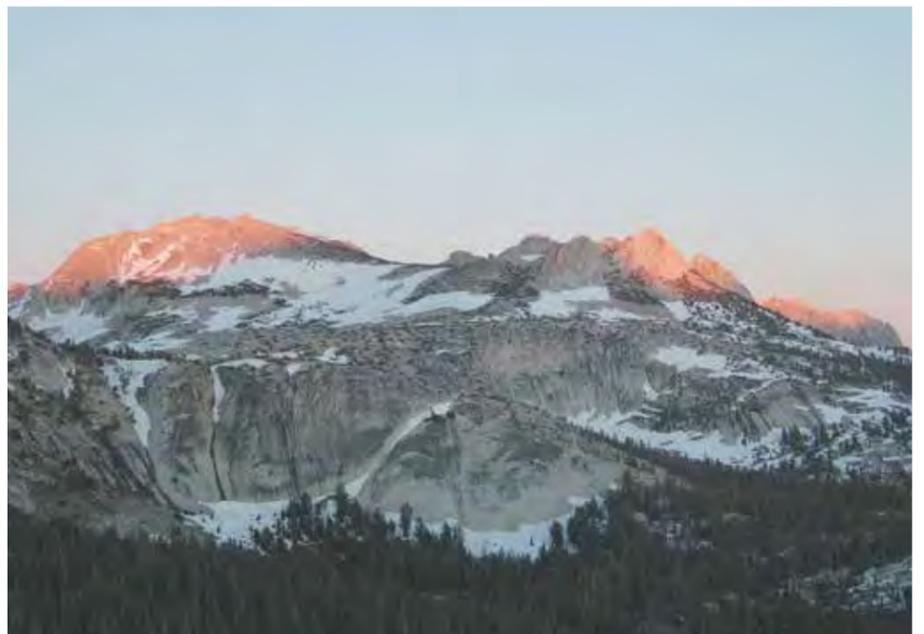
- California's western Sierra Nevada had more frequent fires between 800 and 1300 than at any time in the past 3,000 years, according to a 2009 study based upon tree-ring research. Scientists reconstructed the history of fire during this droughty period by dating the years in which fire scars were found in ancient giant sequoia trees in the Giant Forest of Sequoia National Park. The result: These 500 years, known as the Medieval Warm Period, had the most frequent fires in the 3,000 years studied. During this period extensive fires burned through parts of the Giant Forest at intervals of about 3 to 10 years. Any individual tree was probably in a fire about every 10 to 15 years.



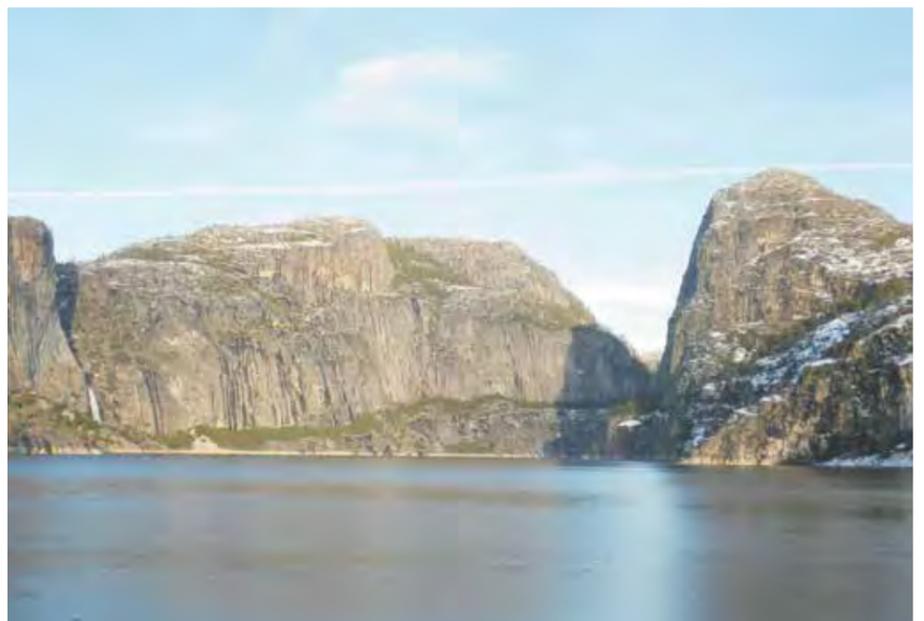
Half Dome and the Merced River Canyon from Glacier Point, Photo by Jeremy Day



Giant sequoias. Photo by Christine White Loberg



Sunset on the Sierra Crest Photo by David Jaffe



Hetch Hetchy Reservoir. NPS photo

# Yosemite Valley

Spectacular vistas in the heart of the park



Dogwoods in Spring NPS Photo

## The Incomparable Yosemite Valley

Yosemite Valley embraces one of the world's most outstanding concentrations of waterfalls, granite walls, meadows, wildflowers, and trees. The Valley also harbors a rich collection of human stories, from American Indian lore to the birth of the National Park movement.

### Yosemite Valley

An unlimited array of possibilities await you in Yosemite Valley. Most involve sightseeing and learning about the scenery before you. See pages 5-6 for more information on program topics and visitor services available.

The base of **Lower Yosemite Fall** is an easy walk from shuttle stop #6. (Both Upper and Lower Yosemite Falls will be dry until rain and snow return.) This hike features educational exhibits and a picnic area, and is accessible to the mobility impaired. Although Yosemite Falls dries up by the end of the summer, **Bridalveil Fall** is a year-round waterfall that you can visit by car on your way into or out of the Valley.

Winds swirling about the cliff lift and blow the falling water in a delicate free-fall.

**El Capitan**, a massive granite monolith, stands 3,593 feet from base to summit. From spring to fall, climbers come from all over the globe to scale El Capitan. *Note: Delicate meadows are easily damaged by trampling, so please stay on footpaths.*

**Half Dome**, Yosemite's most distinctive monument, dominates many views in Yosemite Valley. Forces of uplift, erosion from rivers and glaciers, and rockfall all shaped this famous feature into what we see today. Cook's Meadow, Sentinel Bridge, Tunnel View, Glacier Point, and Olmsted Point are just a few locations with stunning views of Half Dome. (*A permit is required to hike to the summit of Half Dome. See page 8 for details.*)

**Nature Center at Happy Isles** is a place to see dramatic natural processes at work. It is easily reached by shuttle at stop #16. Cross the footbridges onto the Isles or wander through outdoor exhibits detailing Yosemite's geologic story.

**Tunnel View**, along Wawona Road (Hwy 41) provides a classic view of Yosemite Valley, including El Capitan, Half Dome, Sentinel Rock, Cathedral Rocks, and Bridalveil Fall. It is particularly spectacular at sunset or after the clearing of a storm.

**To experience the Valley on foot**, stop by a visitor center for a trail map and the most current trail conditions, or see below for a list of popular Valley day hikes.

**To experience Yosemite with a guide**, visit any tour desk. Tours of Yosemite Valley depart several times daily, and half- and full-day tours to Glacier Point and the Mariposa Grove area available when conditions permit.

**Feel like biking?** Several miles of bicycle paths wind through Yosemite Valley. You can use your own bicycle or rent one from Yosemite Lodge (10am - 5:30pm, closed 1:30pm - 2pm for lunch) or Curry Village (Weather permitting opens April 26 from 10am - 5:30pm, closed 1:30pm - 2pm for lunch) Bikes are only allowed on paved bicycle paths.

**How about a trail ride?** Horse or mule rides begin at the stable near North Pines Campground. Opening April 26, conditions permitting. Stable hours are 8am to 5pm, with 2 hour rides at 9am, noon, and 3pm. Information: 209/372-8348 (reservations strongly recommended).

#### POST OFFICE

**Yosemite Village Main Office**  
Monday-Friday: 8:30am to 5pm  
Saturday: 10am to noon

**Yosemite Lodge Post Office**  
Monday-Friday: 12:30pm to 2:45pm

**El Portal Post Office**  
Monday-Friday: 8:30am to 5pm  
*closed for lunch from 12:30 to 1:30*

**Wawona Post Office**  
Monday-Friday: 9am to 5pm  
Saturday: 9am to noon

#### BOOKS, GIFTS, & APPAREL

**Yosemite Village The Ansel Adams Gallery**  
9am to 5pm

**Yosemite Conservancy Bookstore Inside Yosemite Visitor Center**  
9am to 5pm

**Yosemite Conservancy Museum Store**  
9am to 5pm, *may close for lunch*

**Village Store**  
8am to 9pm

**Habitat Yosemite**  
11am to 4pm Thurs.-Sun. only

**Sport Shop**  
10am to 5pm

**The Ahwahnee The Ahwahnee Gift Shop**  
8am to 9pm

**The Ahwahnee Sweet Shop**  
7am to 10pm

**Yosemite Lodge Gift/Grocery**  
8am to 8pm

**Nature Shop**  
10am to 7pm

**Curry Village Mountain Shop**  
8am to 6pm

**Curry Village Gift/Grocery**  
8am-8pm

**Wawona Area Wawona Store and Pioneer Gift Shop**  
8am to 6pm

## Camping in Yosemite

Reservations are required March 15 through November for Yosemite Valley's car campgrounds and summer through fall for Hodgdon Meadow, Crane Flat, Wawona, and half of Tuolumne Meadows. Campground reservations are available in blocks of one month at a time, up to five months in advance, on the 15th of each month at 7 am Pacific time. Be aware that nearly all reservations for the months of May through September and for some other weekends are filled the first day they become available, usually within seconds or minutes after 7 am! To make reservations, visit [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) (recommended) or call 877/444-6777

Some first-come, first served camping is available in Yosemite Valley at Camp 4, and outside the Valley, conditions permitting.

# Events and Programs\*

Where to go and what to do

## YOSEMITE VALLEY

\*Check local posting for programs beginning May 10 in Hetch Hetchy, Crane Flat, and White Wolf.

Day	Time	Event
Sunday	10:00am	<b>JUNIOR RANGER WALK</b> 1 hr. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near Shuttle Stop #16 (NPS)
	6:30pm	<b>WEE WILD ONES</b> 45 mins. Stories and activities for children 6 & under. Yosemite Lodge at the Falls Amphitheater (DNC) ♿
	8:00pm	<b>Evening Program</b> 1 hr. Check local listings for venue and topic. Yosemite Lodge at the Falls (DNC/NPS) ♿
	8:00pm	<b>Tom Bopp: John Muir &amp; Teddy Roosevelt in Yosemite, 1903</b> (May 12 only) 1 hr. LeConte Memorial Lodge. Shuttle Stop #12 (SC)
Monday	8:00am	<b>Yosemite Conservancy Naturalist Birdwalk</b> 2 hrs. Meet at the Yosemite Art Center for an easy stroll to explore the springtime birds of Yosemite Valley.(YC)\$
	9:00am	<b>Camera Walk</b> 1 1/2 hrs. Sign up in advance at The Ansel Adams Gallery and meet at the Ahwahnee Hotel (TAAG) ♿
	9:00am	<b>Using the Digital Darkroom: Landscapes and Lightroom</b> 4 hrs. Sign up And meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (TAAG)\$
	10:00am	<b>Ranger Walk – Rivers and Waterfalls</b> (April 16, 23, 30 only) 1 1/2 hrs. Shuttle Stop #6 (NPS)
	10:00am	<b>Art Workshop</b> 4 hrs. Yosemite Art Center For more information see page 6. (YC)\$
	3:00pm	<b>Ranger Walk – Bears</b> (May 6, 13, 20 only) 1 1/2 hrs. Curry Village Amphitheater, near Shuttle Stops #13/21 (NPS)
	1:00pm	<b>Using Your Digital Camera</b> 4 hrs. Sign up and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (TAAG)\$
8:00pm	<b>Evening Program</b> 1 hr. Check local listings for venue and topic. Yosemite Lodge at the Falls (DNC/NPS) ♿	
Tuesday	9:00am	<b>Camera Walk</b> 1 1/2 hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (TAAG) ♿
	10:00am	<b>Ranger Walk – Geology</b> 1 1/2 hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near Shuttle Stops #5/#9 (NPS)
	10:00am	<b>Art Workshop</b> 4 hrs. Yosemite Art Center For more information see page 6. (YC)\$
	1:00pm	<b>In the Footsteps of Ansel Adams Photography Class</b> 4 hrs. Sign up and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (TAAG)\$
	4:00pm	<b>Naturalist Stroll</b> (except May 21) 1 hr. Check local listings for topic. The Ahwahnee back lawn (DNC) ♿
7:00pm	<b>Yosemite Theater LIVE!: "Search and Rescue in Yosemite"</b> (Beginning April 30th) 1 1/2 hrs. For more information see page 6 (YC)\$	
8:00pm	<b>Evening Program</b> 1 hr. Check local listings for venue and topic. Yosemite Lodge at the Falls (DNC/NPS) ♿	
Wednesday	10:00am	<b>Ranger Walk – Trees</b> (April 10, 17, 24 only) 1 1/2 hrs. The Ahwahnee, Shuttle Stop #3 (NPS)
	10:00am	<b>Art Workshop</b> 4 hrs. Yosemite Art Center For more information see page 6. (YC)\$
	3:00 pm	<b>Ranger Walk – Bears</b> (May 1, 8, 15 only) 1 1/2 hrs. Curry Village Amphitheater, near Shuttle Stops #13/21 (NPS)
	7:00pm	<b>Yosemite Theater LIVE!: "Conversations with a Tramp (John Muir)"</b> (Beginning May 1st) 1 1/2 hrs. For more information see page 6. (YC)\$
	8:00pm	<b>Evening Program</b> 1 hr. Check local listings for venue and topic. Yosemite Lodge at the Falls (DNC/NPS) ♿
Thursday	8:00am	<b>Yosemite Conservancy Naturalist Birdwalk</b> 2 hrs. Meet at the Yosemite Art Center for an easy stroll to explore the springtime birds of Yosemite Valley (YC) \$
	9:00am	<b>Camera Walk</b> 1 1/2 hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (TAAG) ♿
	10:00am	<b>Ranger Walk – Yosemite's First People</b> (Except May 16) 1 1/2 hrs. Front of Yosemite Museum, near Shuttle Stops #5/#9 (NPS)
	10:00am	<b>Art Workshop</b> 4 hrs. Yosemite Art Center For more information see page 6. (YC) \$
	1:00pm	<b>Using Your Digital Camera</b> 4 hrs. Sign up and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (TAAG)\$
	2:00pm	<b>Where John Muir Slept: Hike Around the Valley</b> (May 9 only) 2 1/2hrs. Meet at LeConte Memorial Lodge. Shuttle Stop #12 (SC)
	3:00pm	<b>Ranger Walk – Bears</b> (May 16 only) 1 1/2 hrs. Curry Village Amphitheater, near Shuttle Stops #13/21 (NPS)
	6:30pm	<b>WEE WILD ONES</b> 45 mins. Stories and activities for children 6 & under. Yosemite Lodge at the Falls Amphitheater (DNC) ♿
7:00pm	<b>Yosemite Theater LIVE!: "John Muir among the Animals"</b> (Beginning May 2) 1 1/2 hrs. For more information see page 6. (YC)\$	
8:00pm	<b>Evening Program</b> 1 hr. Check local listings for venue and topic. Yosemite Lodge at the Falls (DNC/NPS) ♿	
Friday	10:00am	<b>Ranger Walk – Yosemite's Legacy</b> (April 12, 19, 26 only) 1 1/2 hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near Shuttle Stops #5/#9 (NPS)
	10:00am	<b>Art Workshop</b> 4 hrs. Yosemite Art Center For more information see page 6. (YC)\$
	3:00pm	<b>Ranger Walk – Bears</b> (May 3, 10, 17 only) 1 1/2 hrs. Curry Village Amphitheater, near Shuttle Stops #13/21 (NPS)
	7:00pm	<b>Yosemite Theater LIVE!: "Return to Balance: A Climber's Journey"</b> 1 1/2 hrs. For more information see page 6. (YC)\$
	8:00pm	<b>Film: Ansel Adams</b> (Except May 10)1hr. Check local listing for venue (TAAG) ♿
	8:00pm	<b>Evening Program</b> (May 10 only) 1 hr. Check local listings for venue and topic. (DNC) ♿
	8:00pm	<b>BEN CUNNINGHAM-SUMMERFIELD: AMERICAN INDIAN STORYTELLING &amp; FLUTE</b> (May 17 only) 1 hr. LeConte Memorial Lodge. Shuttle Stop #12 (SC)
8:30pm	<b>NIGHT PROWL</b> 1.5 hrs. Explore Yosemite at night. Tickets/information available at any tour desk (DNC) \$ ♿	
Saturday	9:00am	<b>Camera Walk</b> 1 1/2 hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (TAAG) ♿
	10:00am	<b>JUNIOR RANGER WALK</b> (Except April 20) 1 hr. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near Shuttle Stop #16 (NPS)
	10:00am	<b>Art Workshop</b> 4 hrs. Yosemite Art Center For more information see page 6. (YC)\$
	1:00pm	<b>In the Footsteps of Ansel Adams Photography Class</b> 4 hrs. Sign up and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (TAAG)\$
	3:00pm	<b>Ranger Walk – Bears</b> (May 11, 18 only) 1 1/2 hrs. Curry Village Amphitheater, near Shuttle Stops #13/21 (NPS)
	3:00pm	<b>Fine Print Tour</b> 1 hr. Sign up and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery. Very limited space (TAAG) ♿
	3:00pm	<b>Ranger Walk – Bears</b> (May 11, 18 only) 1 1/2 hrs. Curry Village Amphitheater, near Shuttle Stops #13/21 (NPS)
	5:30pm	<b>Naturalist Stroll</b> (except April 20) 1 hr. Check local listings for topic. The Ahwahnee back lawn (DNC) ♿
	7:00pm	<b>Yosemite Theater LIVE!: "Return to Balance: A Climber's Journey"</b> 1 1/2 hrs. For more information see page 6. (YC)\$
	8:00pm	<b>Evening Program</b> (Except May 11)1 hr. Check local listings for venue and topic. Yosemite Lodge at the Falls (DNC/NPS) ♿
8:00pm	<b>Joseph N. LeConte: Exploring, Mapping &amp; Photographing the High Sierra 1890-1930</b> (May 11 only) 1 hr. LeConte Memorial Lodge. Shuttle Stop #12 (SC)	
8:00pm	<b>Jeremy Evans: Hiking the John Muir Trail: Three Weeks of Stories and Photographs</b> (May 18 only) 1 hr. LeConte Memorial Lodge. Shuttle Stop #12 (SC)	
8:30pm	<b>Evening Program</b> (May 11 only) 1 hr. Lecture by John Sexton. Yosemite Lodge at the Falls (TAAG) ♿	
8:30pm	<b>NIGHT PROWL</b> 1.5 hrs. Explore Yosemite at night. Tickets/information available at any tour desk (DNC) \$ ♿	

Programs listed in **ALL CAPS** and **COLOR** are especially for children and their families

**There's more!**  
Don't forget to check out the special Calendar Section included in this Guide for information on park activities between April 19 and April 28 as we celebrate National Park Week, Earth Day, National Junior Ranger Day, and National Volunteer Week.

## Access for People with Disabilities



For a complete list of accessible services, recreational opportunities, and exhibits, pick up an updated Yosemite Accessibility Guide which is available at park entrance stations, visitor centers, and online at [www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/accessibility.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/accessibility.htm), or call a park Accessibility Coordinator at 209/379-1035 for more information.

Accessible parking spaces are available just west of the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center. To reach these, enter the Valley on Southside Drive. Turn left on Sentinel Drive. Turn left on Northside Drive, and follow the blue and white signs.



Sign Language interpreting is available upon request. Contact Deaf Services at 209/379-5250 (v/txt) Two weeks advance notice is requested. Assistive Listening Devices are available upon advance request. Inquire at a visitor center.



Audio tours are available for the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center and the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias. Refer to the Accessibility Guide, or contact an Accessibility Coordinator for more information.

- DNC** DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite, Inc.
- NPS** National Park Service
- SC** Sierra Club
- TAAG** The Ansel Adams Gallery
- YC** Yosemite Conservancy
- \$** Programs offered for a fee

# Yosemite Valley



Reeds and Cloud Reflection Photo by Michael Frye  
From the Yosemite Renaissance XXVIII Exhibition, see below for details

## Valley Visitor Center and Bookstore

Visitor center and bookstore hours are 9 am to 5 pm, just west of the main post office (shuttle stops #5 and #9). The center offers information, maps, and books in the attached bookstore. Explore the exhibit hall and learn how Yosemite's spectacular landscape was formed, how people have interacted with it through the centuries, how wildlife adapts and survives, and how your national park continues to evolve.

### FILM: SPIRIT OF YOSEMITE

This inspiring visitor-orientation film is shown every 30 minutes, Monday - Saturday between 9:30 am and 4:30 pm, and Sunday between noon to 4:30 pm in the Valley Visitor Center Theater.

## Yosemite Museum

Located in Yosemite Village next to the Valley Visitor Center. Open 9am to 5pm, may close for lunch.

### INDIAN CULTURAL EXHIBIT

Interprets the cultural history of Yosemite's Miwok and Paiute people from 1850 to the present.

### YOSEMITE MUSEUM STORE

Open daily from 9 am to 5 pm (may close for lunch). The store offers books and traditional American Indian arts, crafts, jewelry, and books.

## YOSEMITE RENAISSANCE XXVIII EXHIBITION

The Yosemite Renaissance XXVIII exhibition is open at the Yosemite Museum Gallery through May 5. Yosemite Renaissance is an annual exhibit, now in its twenty-eighth year, that encourages diverse interpretations of Yosemite and the environment of the Sierra Nevada. Its goals are to bring together the works of serious contemporary artists that do not simply duplicate traditional representations; to establish a continuum with past generations of Yosemite artists; and to help re-establish visual art as a major interpretive medium of the landscape and a stimulus to the protection of the environment.

## Wilderness Permits

The Yosemite Valley Wilderness Center will open May 4th and the hours will be 8am to 5pm. Wilderness permits, bear canisters, and a variety of maps and books are available. Until May 4th, wilderness permits and bear canisters can be obtained at the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center seven days a week from 9am to 5pm.



## The Ansel Adams Gallery

In Yosemite Village next to the Valley Visitor Center, the gallery is open daily from 9am to 5pm. The gallery offers the work of Ansel Adams, other photographers and artists, camera walks, workshops, and classes. Activities are listed on the front porch. Call 209/372-4413, or visit.anseladams.com.

### EXHIBITS

**March 3th - April 17th:** Carol Henry, *Distracted by Beauty*.

**April 18th - May 29th:** John and Anne Exhibition  
*Photographs by John Sexton and Anne Larsen*  
**Opening Reception:** At The Ansel Adams Gallery, May 11, 2013, 3-5pm  
**Lecture by John Sexton:** Yosemite Lodge at the Falls, May 11, 8:30 pm

## Yosemite Conservancy Outdoor Adventures (YC)

Yosemite Conservancy is passionate about sharing the wonders of Yosemite through our Outdoor Adventure programs. Join one of the many year-round programs available and explore everything Yosemite has to offer.

**April 13:** A Saunter with John Muir *An opportunity to explore with Muir descendent Robert Hanna and Muir actor Frank Helling.*

**May 16 - May 19:** Spring Light Photography *Photographer Dave Wyman reveals a photographer's springtime paradise.*

**May 25:** Photographing the "Moonbow" *1 Capture the elusive Yosemite moonbow with photographer John Senser*

Find detailed information about these programs at [www.yosemiteconservancy.org/adventures](http://www.yosemiteconservancy.org/adventures) or call 209/379-2317, ext. 10. Camping and park entry are included, additional lodging options available. Custom tours can also be arranged for individuals, families and groups. Proceeds support Yosemite Conservancy, a nonprofit dedicated to protecting and preserving Yosemite.

## Yosemite Theater LIVE! (YC)

Yosemite Conservancy presents unforgettable live performances of historic heroes, daring rescues, and thrilling adventures.

**Tuesdays:** Yosemite Search and Rescue *An important and entertaining presentation by Yosemite's Search and Rescue rangers. (beginning April 30th)*

**Wednesday:** John Muir among the Animals *Performed by Yosemite stage veteran Lee Stetson (beginning May 1st)*

**Thursdays:** Conversations with a Tramp *Performed by Yosemite stage veteran Lee Stetson (beginning May 2nd)*

**Fridays and Saturdays:** Return to Balance: A Climber's Journey *Followed by discussion with renowned climber Ron Kauk, featured in the film*

All shows start at 7:00pm. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$4 for children (ages 4-12). Tickets are available at the Yosemite Conservancy Bookstore at the Valley Visitor Center and at Tour & Activity Desks.

## Yosemite Art Center (YC)

Yosemite Conservancy invites you to enjoy a hands-on art experience in Yosemite Valley. Celebrated artists lead workshops from 10am -2pm Monday through Saturday.

**April 8-13:** Paint Yosemite's Light with Watercolor, *Steve Curl*

**April 15-20:** Early Spring Watercolor in Yosemite, *Douglas Castleman*

**April 22-27:** Block Printing' Block, Box and Book, *Annie Lawrence*

**April 29-May 4:** Adventures with Ink, *Carolyn Fitz*

**May 6-11:** Yosemite Treasures! Painting Light, *Geri Medway NWS*

**May 13-18:** Yosemite in Silk, *Christine Sutherland*

**May 20-25:** Watercolor Spring, *Sonja Hamilton SWA*

There is a registration fee of \$10 per visitor, supplies are available for purchase. The Center is located in Yosemite Village next to the Village Store. Yosemite Art Center Hours: Daily 9am-4:30pm (closed for lunch)

## Habitat Protectors of Yosemite (HaPY)

Habitat Protectors of Yosemite (HaPY). Sundays starting May 6, 9am, up to 3 hrs. Yosemite Valley Visitor Center. Join Yosemite Facilities Management staff to help keep Yosemite clean! Participants of all ages will pick up litter and debris throughout the Valley, protecting wildlife and keeping our park beautiful. Volunteers must wear long pants and closed toe shoes. Bring water and snacks. Tools will be provided, and volunteers may participate for one to three hours. For more information, call 209/379-1850.

## Happy Isles Nature Center

(Shuttle stop #16) Happy Isles Bookstore/ Exhibits open starting May 3: Friday - Sunday, 9:30am - 5pm; Starting May 24., open 9:30am - 5pm, daily

## LeConte Memorial Lodge

LeConte Memorial Lodge is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10am to 4 pm. Free evening programs, scheduled for 8:00 pm, are held on Friday and Saturday. Programs held in the building are limited to 50 guests. The Memorial has a library, children's corner, and exhibits. The Memorial is located at shuttle stop #12, across from the Housekeeping Cabins. Call 209/ 372-4542 for program details.

## Hike Or Climb With Yosemite Mountaineering School

Feel the granite and experience Yosemite up close and personally in a climbing class or guided climb, or join an educational guided hike with the Yosemite Mountaineering School and Guide Service, 209/372-8344.

# Come Celebrate With Us!

*Your Guide to National Park Week, National Junior Ranger Day, Earth Day, and National Volunteer Week in one handy, pull-out section!*

## Celebrating... Youth in Yosemite

Yosemite is well known for its inspiring grandeur—the geology, waterfalls and wildlife—yet, what is less known is that Yosemite, with all of its incomparable features also serves as the ultimate classroom for thousands of students and young adults each year. In fact, for many of the youth who experience Yosemite as the ultimate classroom—their experiences are often transformational.

“Yosemite helped me experience a whole new world I was not aware of,” shares Jesus Angel Dolores, a previous Yosemite Leadership Program summer intern, “Yosemite allowed me to reflect, write in a journal, and helped me experience who I really am.”

Many of these transformational opportunities are made possible because of the support from the Yosemite Conservancy. In fact, the Yosemite Conservancy has made Youth In Yosemite a signature project. Working with donors, partners and program managers, Yosemite is expanding its reach, connecting more youth to the legacy of Yosemite—because not long from now, it will be their legacy to carry on.

The park features nearly thirty different youth programs, serving participants age four to twenty-five. Just in the past year, the park served over 47,000 youth through inspiring and diverse offerings including Junior Ranger programs, residential environmental education, field expeditions, internships as well



Above: Parks In Focus participant shows off his new Junior Ranger Badge Parks In Focus-Yosemite

as the Youth Conservation Corps and California Conservation Corps.

It is no wonder the opportunities are so diverse, since nearly every subject can be taught in Yosemite—from ecology, geology, wildlife biology, natural and cultural history to art, literacy and leadership. Youth and education programs connect students to the environment, stewardship and public lands in deep and profound ways that are exciting as well as life changing.

For those seeking ranger-led education programs, Parks As Classrooms, are designed for visiting youth and school groups grades Kindergarten through college. Topics range from black bears, geology, watershed science, wildlife, climate change, park management, Indian Cultural Programs and much more. These programs allow students to have a hands-on learning experience right here in the park. For groups who cannot travel to the park, the education team has a solution for that—Parks As Classrooms programs can be delivered via distance learning technology right into a classroom environment!

“Distance learning programs provides us the opportunity to reach out to students that we wouldn’t normally be able to provide programs to.” said Chris Raines, education park ranger, “We have delivered programs into classrooms in Alabama, Connecticut, Massachusetts, South Dakota and more! Students are excited to see a Yosemite ranger right in their classroom; we can deliver a full program and answer all their questions.”

### Interested in Exploring Yosemite’s Education and Youth Programs? Check out...

**Parks As Classroom Programs, Distance Learning, Youth Programs & Internship Information:** Yosemite National Park Education 209/742-3647 or [Yose\\_education@nps.gov](mailto:Yose_education@nps.gov)

**Residential field science programs, Summer Field Research Course, Wilderness Leadership Course:** NatureBridge 209/379-9511 or [yosemite@naturebridge.org](mailto:yosemite@naturebridge.org)

#### Quick Links:

- Adventure Risk Challenge <http://www.arcprogram.org>
- California Conservation Corps <http://www.ccc.ca.gov>
- Parks In Focus <http://pif.udall.gov>
- Student Conservation Association <http://www.thesca.org>
- Learn more about the Youth In Yosemite signature project! Yosemite Conservancy: <http://www.yosemiteconservancy.org/>

For more additional information or questions, please call the education team at 209/375-9503.



Participants of the Yosemite Leadership Program Summer Internship gain valuable professional and leadership skills during their 12-week program. NPS Photo, Jesse Chakrin

And the opportunities do not end there!

NatureBridge connects young people to the wonder and science of nature in the world’s best classrooms—our national parks. Students take part in three- to five-day field science programs. They hike through the dramatic landscapes of Yosemite National Park, explore ancient groves of giant sequoias, ski across snowy meadows, and challenge themselves to reach the tops of waterfalls—and there’s more! NatureBridge also offers a Summer Field Research Course and a new this year, a Wilderness Leadership Course.

There are also innovative programs such as Adventure Risk Challenge, a rigorous academic program that focuses on literacy and leadership as well as Parks in Focus, a program that utilizes photography as a teaching tool for learning natural history, ecology, stewardship and the legacy of public lands, each of which connect youth to Yosemite in meaningful ways.

Angel, age 12, reflected on her Parks In Focus experience and shared this sentiment, “If it wasn’t for you guys I probably would never have had this experience. I will remember this forever, the time I went to Yosemite. When I came home the first thing I did was talk about Glacier Point and how you could see the stars and constellations. I felt like I didn’t want to leave, but then how would I share this experience with my family?”

For youth who are ready to explore longer-term professional development opportunities such as internships, the Student Conservation Association commonly features internship opportunities in Yosemite and for some college students, their school may have already established a connection with the park, such as Stanford University and the University of California Merced. In addition, young adults can explore the residential offerings provided through the Youth Conservation Corps and California Conservation Corps.

With such a wide variety of programs, serving various ages and learning objectives, there is just about something for everyone—and the best way to experience what Yosemite has to offer is to explore the options or get involved. Start now and explore some of the opportunities in Yosemite for the youth in your life and help them become connected to their national park—Yosemite, because when students learn in the ultimate classroom, it just might be transformational.

Article by Shauna Potocky

# Special Events Calendar

## FRIDAY, April 19

### 2:00pm

**Earth Day Bike Ride, 3 hrs.**  
Explore Yosemite Valley with Park staff for a fun and educational bike ride about the Yosemite's environmental efforts. \$5 per person, which includes bike rental. Free if you bring your own bike. (Advance tickets required. Space limited to 50 participants. Information/tickets available at any tour desk.)

### 7:00pm

**Earth Day Family Night, 1.5 hrs.**  
Family friendly evening with songs, entertainment, and theater, including a dramatization of *The Lorax* by Dr. Seuss. Yosemite Lodge at the Falls Amphitheater or Yosemite Lodge at the Falls Cliff Room in inclement weather

## SATURDAY April 20, EARTH DAY

### 9:00am

**Photo Walk: Ansel Adams and the Yosemite Landscape, 1.5 hrs.**  
Join The Ansel Adams Gallery for an interpretive walk to learn more about Ansel's contributions to the environmental movement. Open to all levels. Bring your own camera. Meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery in Yosemite Village

### 10:00am

**Climbing Trails Restoration Project, 4-6 hrs.**  
Join us as we restore human impacts near popular climbing areas in Yosemite Valley by removing social trails and creating habitat for native plants. Wear long pants, closed-toed shoes, sun protection and bring water and snacks. Meet in front of the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center.

### Junior Ranger Walk, 1 hr.

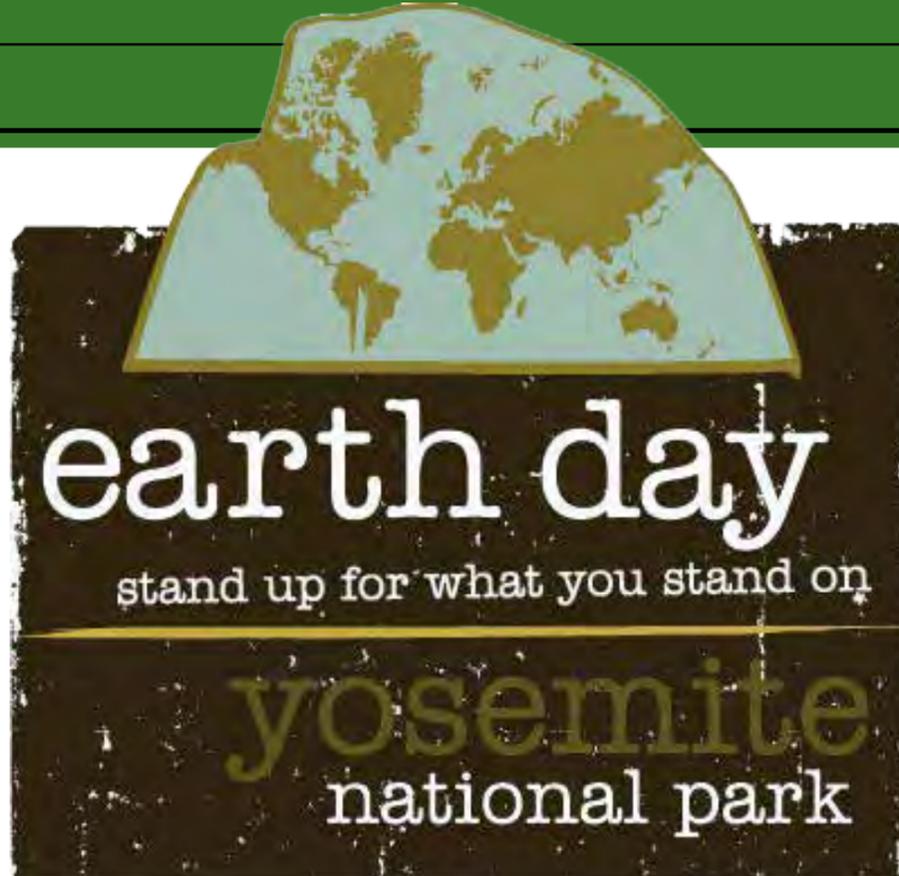
Come join a Ranger for an interpretive talk about Yosemite's rocks, trees, and wildlife. Have fun looking for tracks, scat and wildlife in Yosemite. The walk will last one hour and children will receive a junior ranger badge. Yosemite Valley Visitor Center

### 10:30 am -1:30 pm

**Earth-Friendly Product Faire**  
The Village Store sells approximately 500 sustainable and/or organic products. About 30% of health and beauty products are also sustainable and/or organic. Stop by the Village Mall to visit with vendors to discover how Yosemite's products are Earth-friendly.

### 11:00am

**Children's Yoga, 30 mins.**  
Draw awareness into your body and connect with the earth in a yoga session for the family offered by Balanced Rock. Children's Stage, in front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center



## 10:30am-2:00pm

### Earth Day and Junior Ranger Day Village Celebration

Wander between the Village Store and the Visitor Center where games, interactive activities and demonstrations allow you to experience how the park and its partners are implementing sustainability practices; explore with National Park Service, DNC Parks and Resorts at Yosemite, The Ansel Adams Gallery, NatureBridge, Yosemite Conservancy and more. Earth-Lovin' Lil' Ones Tent and Stage, the National Park Service, Yosemite Conservancy, and DNC Parks and Resorts in Yosemite team up to provide easy, kid-friendly, and earth-friendly crafts and face painting at the Children's Tent. Nearby, find music, fun and games at the Children's Stage. Visit the Earth Day Welcome booth or the Children's Stage to find out the schedule of children's activities!

### 11:30am-1:30pm

**Sustainable Salad Bar Tasting, 2 hrs.**  
Delaware North Companies Parks & Resorts (DNC P&R) has a company-wide initiative to incorporate sustainable practices into all business decisions. Sample some of the organic and sustainable foods used in DNC P&R at Yosemite's kitchens in front of the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center.

### 11:45am

**Wee Wild Ones, 30 mins.**  
Bring your little ones ages 6 and under for stories and games with a DNC naturalist! Children's Stage, in front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center

### 12:00pm-4:00pm

**Universal Waste Collection**  
Drop off that old TV set, computer, spent fluorescent bulbs, or other universal waste at the Village Recycling Center. Discover more about universal waste and Yosemite's efforts to lessen its impacts. Yosemite Village Recycling Center

### 12:30pm

**Live Earth Music for Kids, 30 mins.**  
Come sing along with Gail Dreyfus for a guitar-strumming celebration for all ages! This interactive event will have you singing and dancing about the wonders of Mother Earth. Children's Stage, in front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center

### 1:00pm-1:30pm

**Earth Day Cupcakes and Lemonade**  
Enjoy an Earth Day Cupcake and a cup of lemonade in front of the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center.

### 1:00pm

**National Volunteer Day Trash Pick Up, 1.5 hrs.**  
Become a Habitat Protector of Yosemite (HaPY) Volunteer! Join a park ranger to clean up litter and unnatural debris in the Yosemite Village Area, making the area healthier for our wildlife. Wear long pants, closed-toed shoes, sun protection, and bring water. All ages and abilities welcome. Meet at the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center.

### Photography Class: In the Footsteps of Ansel Adams, 4 hrs.

Photographer Ansel Adams immortalized Yosemite National Park through his classic black & white images that pushed the popularity of landscape photography while helping to motivate the American environmental movement. Through the course of the class, you will visit a number of locations from where Ansel composed some of his most famous images. You will receive insight into Ansel's life, photography and philosophies as well as basic lessons in photographic technique. Sign up in advance at The Ansel Adams Gallery. (\$)

### 1:15pm

**Children's Storytelling**  
Get ready for a delightful good time with Park Ranger Karen Amstutz as she shares stories and songs that celebrate the earth! Children's Stage, in front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center

### 3:00pm

**Fine Print Tour, 1 hr.**  
Spend an hour with our gallery curator viewing some of the Ansel Adams original photographs in our inventory. In the spirit of Earth Day, curator Evan Russel will discuss Ansel's early approach to photography and how it evolved into a conservation tool and an expression of Mr. Adams' love of Nature. History of both The Ansel Adams Gallery and photography in the park will also be discussed, with time to answer questions throughout. Extremely limited space.

### Junior Ranger Walk, 1 hr.

Come join a Ranger for an interpretive talk about Yosemite's rocks, trees, and wildlife. Have fun looking for tracks, scat and wildlife in Yosemite. The walk will last one hour and children will receive a junior ranger badge. Yosemite Valley Visitor Center

### 5:30pm

**Naturalist Stroll: Poetry and Parks, a Walk, and Reading, 1 hr, 15 mins.**  
National Park Service Ranger Margaret Eissler will take visitors on an easy stroll. Meet on the lawn behind The Ahwahnee Hotel.

### 8:00pm

**The National Parks: America's Best Idea, 1 hr.**  
See a portion of Episode 1, *The Scripture of Nature*, from Ken Burns' documentary covering the establishment and growth of National Parks. Discover the role Yosemite played, as land conservation began to take flight in the United States. Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater

## Sunday, April 21

### 7:00pm

**Chasing Ice, 2 hrs.**  
Join park staff for a screening of this award winning documentary. Follow the journey of an environmental photographer as he documents the changing landscape of glaciers, to show a multi-year record of changing ice. Yosemite Valley Theater

## Monday, April 22

### 8:00pm

**National Parks in the Sky, 1 hr.**  
Join park ranger Bob Roney for a presentation about the dark night skies and national parks. Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater



## Tuesday, April 23

**8:00pm**

**The National Park Idea Started... Here, 1 hr.**

Did you know that the roots of the national park idea are found in Yosemite? Nearly 150 years ago, on June 30, 1864, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Yosemite Grant Act, thereby setting aside Mariposa Grove and Yosemite Valley as the first tracts of wild land preserved for future generations. Join us to learn about how this first piece of legislation has inspired generations of people throughout the world. Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater

## Wednesday, April 24

**8:00pm**

**This is America, 1 hr.**

Join park ranger, Shelton Johnson, for a screening of Ken Burns' supplement to America's Best Idea. See the National Park System through varied perspectives from people across the United States, and hear the stories of a few who have devoted their lives to the National Parks. Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater

## Thursday, April 25

**8:00pm**

**What's Wild in Yosemite, 1 hr.**

Bears, bobcats, and birds, oh my! These are just a few of wild animals that make their home in Yosemite. Learn about these and a few lesser known species in the park, along with what makes National Parks so special for wildlife. Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater

## Friday, April 26

**8:00pm**

**Primeval Ponderings, A Meander Through the Wilderness, 1 hr.**

Take a wander on the wild side and celebrate the legacy of wilderness in the National Park Service and Yosemite. See what wilderness really is, and learn about its importance from a Yosemite wilderness ranger. Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater

## Saturday, April 27

**8:00pm**

**Yosemite By Ear, 1 hr.**

Hear the park for the first time! Join park ranger Bob Roney for a special tail of Yosemite's soundscape. Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater

## Sunday, April 28

**8:00pm**

**Untold Stories from America's National Parks, 1 hr.**

Join park ranger Shelton Johnson for a screening of "Untold Stories from America's National Parks" by Roger Sherman, narrated by Ken Burns which documents the importance of N.P.S. efforts to tell all of America's stories. This documentary is a compilation of short films, and ranger Shelton Johnson will be present for discussion. Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater



International Volunteers spend several months in the park on cultural exchange visas to learn conservation skills they can use in their home countries. NPS Photo

*Celebrating...*

## National Volunteer Week, April 21-27

The United States is known as a nation of volunteers. Even in the 19th century, European visitors to the USA such as Alexis de Tocqueville commented on the American habit of forming associations to accomplish communal goals. Today that tradition continues with volunteers coming to National Parks from all over the world to share their time, talent, and skills. In 2012, over 256,000 individuals donated more than 6.7 million hours of service in 398 national park units. It is only fitting that this year we celebrate National Park Week and National Volunteer Week concurrently.

Volunteers have always been a part of Yosemite, whether the Sierra Club volunteers who pushed for protection of the park, early residents who acted as tour guides and trail-builders, or those who worked to establish the Yosemite Museum. In 1969, the National Park Service formally recognized volunteers when Congress passed the Volunteers-in-Parks Act. As then NPS Director George Hartzog stated, "When a VIP agrees to share his talents, skills and interests with the National Park Service, he is paying us one of the highest compliments possible by offering a most valued possession – his time."

The Yosemite Volunteer Program is vibrant and diverse, with individual, group, and event activities, and volunteers travelling to the park from California, the United States, and beyond. They work in all areas of the park in nearly every park operation, including resources management, maintenance, interpretation, resource protection, campgrounds, and administration.

Individual Volunteers usually come to the park for a month or more, and work alongside park staff. College students gain experience in their chosen careers, from wildlife management to legal research. Retired volunteers help assist the public in visitor centers, campgrounds, and on the trails. International volunteers gain conservation career experience they can share with their home countries. Individual volunteers work in wildlife research, public information, native plant restoration, historic research, search and rescue, trail construction, and leading groups of volunteers. Many volunteers work one season and move on to new adventures, while other volunteers have been returning annually for 20 years.

Group Volunteers arrive in the park with their scout troops, churches, schools, families, summer camps, and conservation organizations. They volunteer for a few hours to a week, tackling labor-intensive work, such as removing invasive plants, picking up litter and cleaning out fire pits, painting trash cans, building accessible campsites, conducting social science research, removing social trails, and more. Working with partners such as the Yosemite Conservancy and the Sierra Club, individuals can volunteer together during group work weeks, with food provided by those organizations. The group trips become annual traditions, some now bringing a third generation of volunteers to the park.

Throughout the year, the park hosts special events and "drop-in" volunteer days. This allows people who are visiting the park to volunteer with little or no planning. During the annual Apple-Picking Day, nearly 300 volunteers help to pick apples from historic orchards, removing this non-native food source that attracts bears to developed areas. For National Public Lands Day, the park partners with the Yosemite Climbing Association to hold the five-day "Yosemite Facelift", removing litter and debris throughout the park, including areas only accessible by the climbers who organize the event. In summer months, visitors can join the Habitat Protectors of Yosemite (HaPY) program on Wednesdays from 9am to noon, performing ecological restoration.

All of this work adds up. Last year 9,535 Yosemite volunteers served over 187,000 hours, worth over \$4 million in labor. This work is critical to helping Yosemite meet its goals of preserving this special place while providing a quality visitor experience, ensuring that stewardship in Yosemite inspires the world.

Would you like to serve? Your parks need you! We have group and individual volunteer opportunities, both short term and long term. Learn more at: [www.nps.gov/yose/supportyourpark/volunteer.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yose/supportyourpark/volunteer.htm) or call the volunteer office at 209/379-1850.

Volunteer opportunities at all national parks and public lands are posted at [www.volunteer.gov](http://www.volunteer.gov).

To learn more about National Park Week and find volunteer centers in your home town, visit [www.pointsoflight.org](http://www.pointsoflight.org)

*Article by Heather Boothe*

# Become a Junior Ranger

Follow these steps to earn your Junior Ranger badge.\*

Yosemite National Park offers a wide variety of wide variety of programs and activities for kids of all ages! Find kid-friendly programs throughout the Yosemite Guide.

Programs printed in **ALL CAPS & COLOR** are especially for **CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES**

**Be a naturalist.** Look for these common Yosemite wild animals. If you see one, make a note by the animal's picture below. If you don't see any of these wild animals during your visit, choose one you did see and draw it in the box on this page. Where did you see it? What was it doing? Also, remember never to feed or approach an animal.



Coyote



Black bear



Golden-mantled ground squirrel

**With an adult, pick a trail to walk.** See page 7 of this Guide or stop by a visitor center to choose your trail. As you go, walk quietly, watch, listen, and think. Write the name of the trail you walked. \_\_\_\_\_

**Explore with your senses! Record the following.**

I see: \_\_\_\_\_

I hear: \_\_\_\_\_

I smell: \_\_\_\_\_

I touch: \_\_\_\_\_

**Leave no Trace!** If you see trash or rubbish, pick it up. Junior Rangers learn to be good park stewards by bringing in a bag of trash. Recycle any recyclable materials you pick up or bring along.

**Learn more. Go to a ranger-led program or visit with an Indian Cultural Demonstrator.** Which program did you attend? Have the ranger or demonstrator sign below.

Signed by: \_\_\_\_\_

**Write down something you learned from a ranger or Indian Cultural Demonstrator.**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Think about this.** Why do people work to protect national parks?

\_\_\_\_\_

**When you complete this page, take it to a visitor center.** There you will take your oath and receive your Junior Ranger badge.

*\*Expanded Junior Ranger and Little Cub programs (and the chance to earn a patch) are available in the Junior Ranger or Little Cub Handbooks, which can be purchased at any Yosemite Conservancy bookstore.*

# Visitor Services

Beyond Yosemite Valley

Hours listed are core hours for facilities and may be extended during periods of peak visitation. Check local postings for changes to hours of operation.

## FOOD & BEVERAGE

### Yosemite Village

#### Degnan's Delicatessen

7am to 5pm

#### Village Grill

11am to 5pm

#### The Ahwahnee

#### Dining Room

Breakfast: 7am to 10am

Lunch: 11:30am to 2pm

Dinner Sun - Thurs 5:30pm to 8:30pm & Fri & Sat 5:30pm to 9pm

Sunday Brunch: 7am to 2pm

*Reservations required for Mother's Day brunch*

*Appropriate attire required for dinner.*

*Reservations recommended for all meals, strongly recommended for dinner and Sunday Brunch.* 209/372-1489.

**The Ahwahnee Bar** 11:30am to 11pm

**The Coffee Bar** 7am to 10:30am

### Yosemite Lodge

#### Food Court

Breakfast: 6:30am to 11am

Lunch: 11:30am to 2pm

Sun - Thurs 5pm - 8:30pm / Fri & Sat

5pm - 9pm (Grab and Go only the last 30 minutes)

#### Mountain Room Lounge

Mon - Fri 4:30pm to 11pm / Sat & Sun noon to 11pm

#### Mountain Room Restaurant

Fri & Sat 5pm to 9pm; Sun - Thurs 5 to 8:30pm

*Reservations taken for 8 or more.*

209/372-1281

### Curry Village

#### Coffee Corner

7am to 11am

**Pizza Deck** 5pm - 9pm Mon - Fri, Noon to 9pm Sat & Sun. Beginning April 26 open daily Noon to 10pm

### Wawona

#### Wawona Hotel Dining Room

Breakfast: 7:30am to 10am Breakfast complimentary for hotel guests

Lunch: 11:30am to 1:30pm

Dinner: 5:30pm to 9pm

*For dinner reservations for 6 or more persons, call 209/375-1425 -*

Lounge Service: 5pm-9:30pm

### GROCERIES

#### Yosemite Lodge

#### Gift/Grocery

8am to 8pm

#### Yosemite Village

#### Village Store

8am to 9pm

#### Curry Village

#### Gift/Grocery

8am to 8pm

Wawona Store & Pioneer Gift Shop

8am to 6pm

#### Crane Flat

**Store** 9am-5pm

### GAS STATIONS

#### Gas outside Yosemite Valley

#### El Portal

Diesel available

Pay 24 hours with credit or debit card

#### Wawona Gas Station

8am to 6pm. Diesel & propane.

Pay 24 hours with credit or debit card.

#### Crane Flat

9am to 5pm. Diesel available. Pay 24 hours with credit or debit card

### SHOWERS AND LAUNDRY

#### Curry Village Showers

Open 24 hours

#### Housekeeping Camp Showers

7am - 10pm, beginning April 18 at noon

#### Housekeeping Camp Laundromat

8am to 10pm



Giant sequoias Photo by Christine Loberg

## Wawona

### Visitor Center at Hill's Studio

Starting April 12th the bookstore (only) will be open daily from 9am to 4pm, may close for lunch. On May 10th the Wawona Visitor Center at Hill's Studio opens and will be open daily from 8:30am to 5pm, offering visitor information, wilderness permits, bear canisters rentals, and a variety of books and maps. Until May 10th, wilderness permits can be obtained by self-registration on the porch of Hill's Studio and bear canisters are available for rent at the Wawona Store.

### Pioneer Yosemite History Center

Go back to a time of horse-drawn wagons, a covered bridge, and log cabins. A visit to the Pioneer Yosemite History Center explores Yosemite's history and explains how Yosemite was the inspiration for national parks across America and around the world. The center is open throughout the year.

### Mariposa Grove

Located near Yosemite's South Entrance, the Mariposa Grove is the park's largest stand of giant sequoias, with about 500 trees. A few of these giants are visible in the parking area. Information about access for disabled people is available at the tram boarding area. The road to the Grove typically closes in November or December. Visitors can walk, ski, or snowshoe when the road is closed to vehicles.

### GENERAL SERVICES

#### Village Garage

8am to 5pm Towing 24 hours. Propane available until 4:30pm. 209/372-8320

#### Dental Services

Adjacent to Yosemite Medical Clinic. For hours, call 209/372-4200. If no answer, call 209/372-4637

#### Yosemite Medical Clinic

The clinic is open Monday through Friday from 9:00am and 5:00pm and is closed on Saturday and Sunday. 24 hour emergency ambulance service continues to be available. Emergency care: 24 hours daily. 209/372-4637

### RELIGIOUS SERVICES

#### YOSEMITE COMMUNITY CHURCH

209-372-4831 Chapel office, Pastor Brent Moore-Resident Minister

### GETTING TO MARIPOSA GROVE

Allow 1½ hours driving time to reach the grove from the Valley. Cars are prohibited beyond the grove parking lot.

Trailers are prohibited on the Mariposa Grove Road. Private vehicles longer than 25 feet are not permitted.

### WALKING THROUGH THE GROVE

Trails into the grove extend uphill from the trailhead at the far end of the parking area. Interpretive signs between the trailhead and the California Tree provide a self-guiding tour. Written translations are available at the trailhead in Spanish, German, French, and Japanese. When snow covers the ground, access is limited to foot, snowshoe, or ski. Dogs and bikes are not permitted anywhere in the Mariposa Grove.

## Big Oak Flat

### Big Oak Flat Information Station

Starting April 12th the bookstore (only) will be open daily from 9am to 4pm, may close for lunch. (Open 8:30am to 5pm beginning May 10th.) The Visitor Center offers general information, wilderness permits, bear canisters rentals, and a variety of books and maps. Until May 10th, wilderness permits can be obtained by self-registration on the porch of Hill's Studio and bear canisters are available for rent at the bookstore.

www.YosemiteValleyChapel.org

Wedding information on our website

**MARRIAGE RENEWAL SUNDAY**  
Annual marriage renewal service  
9:15 A.M. and 11:00 A.M.

**SUNDAY SERVICES**  
9:15 A.M. (Sunday School available)  
11:00 A.M. (Memorial Day through Labor Day)  
6:30 P.M. Evening Service

**TUESDAY EVENING**  
Men's and Woman's Bible Study 7:00 P.M. call chapel for location

**THURSDAY MIDWEEK SERVICE**  
Thursday Midweek Service 7:00 P.M.

Various Bible Studies during the week call chapel office for times and locations.

#### ROMAN CATHOLIC

SUNDAY MASS CELEBRATIONS:  
209-372-4729

## Merced Grove

Yosemite's quietest stand of sequoias is the Merced Grove, a group of about 20 trees accessible only on foot. It's a four-mile round-trip hike, ski, or snowshoe (about three hours) into the grove from Big Oak Flat Road (Highway 120 West). Located 3½ miles north of Crane Flat and 4½ miles south of the Big Oak Flat Entrance, the trailhead is marked by a road sign and post labeled B-10.

## Tuolumne Grove

This cluster of about 25 sequoias is near Crane Flat at the intersection of Big Oak Flat and Tioga Roads. The former route of the Big Oak Flat Road leads downhill from Crane Flat into the grove. Now closed to cars, this path drops 500 feet (150 meters) in one mile. The trip (you can walk, ski, or snowshoe) is moderately strenuous uphill. Within the Tuolumne Grove there is an easy, half-mile, self-guiding nature trail.

## Tuolumne Meadows

### Tuolumne Meadows Wilderness Center

The center is scheduled to open along with the Tioga Road. Please check the website for hours of operation. Wilderness permits, bear canisters, information, books, and maps are available. The center is located just as you turn onto the Tuolumne Lodge Road.

Sunday, 10:00 am Visitor Center Theater, Shuttle Stop # 5 or 9

#### CHURCH OF CHRIST (NONDENOMINATIONAL)

El Portal Chapel/Worship: Sunday 11 am Foresta Road, at top of Chapel Lane  
Information: 209/379-2100

#### SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**  
7:30 pm Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday  
DNC General Office Building  
(Employee Training Center) Yosemite Village

**LIONS CLUB**  
Meets the first and third Thursdays of each month at noon, The Ahwahnee. Call 209/372-4475.

**ROTARY INTERNATIONAL**  
Meets Thursdays for lunch at noon in The Ahwahnee Mural Room. Visiting Rotarian families and guests welcome. For meeting reservations or information, call 209/372-0282.

# Protecting yourself...



Panoramic View from Glacier Point/ Photo by Greg Frediani

## Keep yourself safe while exploring your park.

There are many ways to experience the wildness of Yosemite. While the forces of nature can create unexpected hazardous conditions, with a little common sense and some pre-planning, you can minimize the risks associated with many activities.

### Around Ice and Water

- Stay off of frozen lakes, rivers and streams.
- The banks of many streams are slippery from rocks worn smooth from water flow, and a fall into the cold, rapid water is rarely survivable. Each year, unsuspecting visitors drown or are swept over waterfalls to their deaths when venturing too close to the water's edge. Keep children from wandering on or near stream banks.
- Never swim or wade upstream from the brink of a waterfall, even if the water appears shallow and calm.
- Swimming is prohibited in Emerald Pool (above Vernal Fall) and in the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir.

### Avoid Hypothermia

- Spring temperatures can drop rapidly with little warning, and require a high degree of preparation and training.
- Be prepared to shelter overnight even when out for just the day. Know how to use your gear and carry basic repair materials. Also, bring a headlamp so you can keep moving and keep warm if you are unexpectedly out after dark.
- Avoid the combination of wetness, wind, and cold. Carry an extra dry shirt to exchange with one that may have gotten wet while sweating.
- Carry emergency fire-starting materials, and plenty of high energy food. Avoid dehydration; carry and drink plenty of water.

### Hiking, Backpacking, Backcountry Snow Travel, and Rock Climbing

While a trail may start out snow free, be prepared for patches of snow or for the snow to become continuous and quite slippery. Summer trails are not marked for winter use. Hikers may lose the trail when crossing a stretch of snow and subsequently become disoriented while searching for the trail. Stay oriented by using landmarks and a map, and looking back periodically to get familiar with the path back.

- Tell someone where you are going and when you are due back.
- Carry and know how to use a map and compass or GPS made for backcountry travel.
- Check weather forecasts. Snow can occur with little warning, and can make route finding very difficult.
- Avoid dehydration by drinking plenty of water, even when it is cool out. Bring enough water for your whole day out, or a means to purify stream water
- Be prepared to set up emergency shelter even when out just for the day.
- Get familiar with your gear before you leave, and carry basic repair materials.
- Thoroughly check snow bridges for integrity before crossing streams.
- During spring months rising air temperatures can quickly melt snow creating fast flowing creeks that become a barrier to the entry or exit of certain

areas. Ask at a Visitor Center about stream conditions for the area you wish to visit.

### Effects of Altitude

Altitude sickness may develop in otherwise healthy and fit people who are exposed to rapid increases in altitude. It can develop at altitudes as low as 8,000 feet (Yosemite Valley's elevation is 4,000 feet). Staying well hydrated can minimize the effects of altitude. Should you experience a headache or shortness of breath due to altitude sickness, descend to a lower elevation.

### Wilderness Permit Details

Free wilderness permits are required for all overnight trips into the Yosemite Wilderness. Please see wilderness permit information on page 7 of this Guide for more information about obtaining wilderness permits.

For summer trips, reservations are taken from 24 weeks to two days in advance of the start of your trip. A processing fee of \$5 per permit plus \$5 per person is charged to each confirmed reservation. Check the park's website for trailhead availability and call 209/372-0740

Information about Half Dome permits is available on our website at [www.nps.gov/yose](http://www.nps.gov/yose).

### More Information

- Yosemite Information [nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/backpacking.htm](http://nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/backpacking.htm)
- Leave No Trace [lnt.org](http://www.lnt.org)
- Friends of Yosemite Search and Rescue [www.friendofyosar.org](http://www.friendofyosar.org)

### Hantavirus Information

Mice are an important part of the ecosystem, but can carry diseases that are harmful to humans. Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome (HPS) is a rare but serious disease spread in the droppings and saliva of infected rodents. Not all rodents are infected with hantavirus, but infected rodents have been found throughout the US. You can be in close proximity to park rodents, so it is important you take steps to protect yourself from HPS.

Tell housekeeping staff if you see evidence of mice in your tent or cabin and do not clean up the area yourself. Keep doors shut and do not eat or bring food into your cabin that is not in a sealed container. Do not pitch tents near rodent burrows or droppings. HPS begins with aches, fever, and chills 1- 8 weeks after exposure, progressing to cough and difficulty breathing. Seek medical attention immediately if you experience these symptoms.

For more information on rodent-borne diseases and other environmental safety hazards visit: <http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/yoursafety.htm>

# ...and Yosemite



Coyote in snow Photo by Caitlin Lee-Roney

## Keeping Bears Wild

Keep Yosemite's Black Bears Wild and Alive, while protecting yourself and your property.

### Store Your Food Properly.

4,000 to 20,000 calories worth of grasses, berries, acorns, and grubs—that's the typical daily diet of most bears. It's a lot easier for a bear to eat the thousands of calories of food in an ice chest than it is to spend all day nibbling at grasses. Their incredible sense of smell allows them to detect things we can't, which helps them find food—a black bear can smell a dead deer three miles away. To top it off, bears have excellent vision and can see in color, so they recognize ice chests, grocery bags, and other food containers as potential food sources.

### If you see a bear, scare it away or keep your distance.

You may not see a bear during your visit because they naturally avoid people. However, if you see one in a developed area (like a campground or parking lot), act immediately to scare it away: Make noise and yell as loud as possible. If there is more than one person, stand together to present a more intimidating figure, but do not surround the bear. If you see a bear anywhere else, consider yourself lucky—but keep your distance (at least 50 yards, or about the distance made by four shuttle buses parked end to end). If you get too close, you will

be helping the bear become used to being around people. Bears that become comfortable around humans lose their natural fear of us and may become too aggressive. When that happens, they sometimes have to be killed.

### Drive the speed limit.

The most common human-related cause of death for a black bear in Yosemite is being hit by a car. Slow down! Driving too fast is almost always the cause of these accidental deaths.

**Please report bear sightings by calling 209/372-0322.**

## Yosemite Guardians

Visitors to Yosemite National Park are the park's most important guardians. With nearly 4 million people watching over its special plants, animals, historic, and archeological sites, imagine how well-protected these park resources could be!

During your visit to Yosemite be aware that there are people who either unknowingly or intentionally harm park resources. Please contact a park official if you see any of the following illegal acts:

- Feeding or approaching wildlife
- Collecting plants
- Hunting animals
- Collecting reptiles and butterflies
- Picking up archeological items, such as arrowheads
- Using metal detectors
- Driving vehicles into meadows
- Biking off of paved roads
- Camping outside of designated campgrounds
- Possession of weapons inside federal facilities

If you see activities that could harm people or park resources, jot down any descriptions or a vehicle license plate number and call the park dispatch office at 209/379-1992.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

To find out more about Yosemite National Park regulations visit [www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/yoursafety.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/yoursafety.htm) and find a copy of the Superintendent's Compendium. This document is a compilation of designations, closures, permit requirements, and other restrictions made by the superintendent, in addition to what is contained in Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations (Chapter 1, Parts 1 through 7 and 34), and other applicable federal statutes and regulations.

## How to Store Food

"Food" includes any item with a scent, regardless of packaging. This may include items that you do not consider food, such as canned goods, bottles, drinks, soap, cosmetics, toiletries, trash, ice chests (even when empty), and unwashed items used for preparing or eating meals.

LOCATION	FOOD STORAGE	WHY?
<b>Your Vehicle</b>	You may store food in your car (with windows closed) only during daylight hours. Do not store food in your car after dark: use a food locker. Remember to clear your car of food wrappers, baby wipes, and crumbs in baby seats.	Bears can smell food, even if it's sealed in the trunk or glove compartment, and they recognize boxes and bags as potential food sources. They can easily and quickly break into all kinds of vehicles!
<b>Your Campsite or Tent Cabin</b>	You must store all your food in food lockers—not in your tent or tent cabin. A food locker is available at each campsite and tent cabin. Food may be stored out of sight in hard-sided RVs with windows closed.	Bears may enter campsites when people are present, and some will even check food lockers to see if they're secured. Keep food lockers closed and latched at all times, even when you are in your campsite or tent cabin.
<b>Picnic Areas &amp; on the Trails</b>	Do not leave food unattended. Always keep food within arm's reach. Don't turn your back to your food.	Bears may investigate picnic areas or backpacks for food even when people are present, so be alert.
<b>Backpacking in the Wilderness</b>	Bear resistant food containers are required throughout the Yosemite Wilderness. Hanging food is prohibited in Yosemite.	In Yosemite and the southern Sierra, bear canisters are the only effective and proven method of preventing bears from getting human food.

## Yosemite Valley Day Hikes

TRAIL / DESTINATION	STARTING POINT	DISTANCE / TIME	DIFFICULTY / ELEVATION
Bridalveil Fall	Bridalveil Fall Parking Area	0.5 mile round-trip, 20 minutes	Easy
Lower Yosemite Fall	Lower Yosemite Fall Shuttle Stop #6	1.0 mile round-trip, 20 minutes	Easy
Upper Yosemite Fall <b>Trail to Columbia Rock</b>	Camp 4 Near Shuttle Stop #7	2 miles round-trip, 2-3 hours	Strenuous 1,000-foot gain
Top of Upper Yosemite Fall	Same as above	7.2 miles round-trip, 6-8 hours	Very Strenuous 2,700-foot gain
Mirror Lake (A seasonal lake)	Mirror Lake Shuttle Stop #17	2 miles round-trip, 1 hour	Easy
Vernal Fall Footbridge	Happy Isles Shuttle Stop #16	1.4 miles round-trip, 1-2 hours	Moderate, 400-foot gain
Top of Vernal Fall	Happy Isles Shuttle Stop #16	3 miles round-trip, 2-4 hours	Strenuous 1,000-foot gain
Top of Nevada Fall	same as above	5 miles round-trip, 5-6 hours	Strenuous 1,900-foot gain
Four Mile Trail to Glacier Point (Closed in winter)	Southside Drive	4.8 miles one-way, 3-4 hours one-way	Very Strenuous, 3,200-foot gain
Valley Floor Loop	Lower Yosemite Fall Shuttle Stop #6	13 miles full loop, 5-7 hours full loop	Moderate

# Restoring the Mariposa Grove

By Sue Beatty



Mariposa Grove NPS Photo

The Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias, the largest of three groves within Yosemite National Park, contains 484 mature giant sequoia trees. Giant sequoias are a superlative species, being among the rarest, oldest and largest living organisms in the world. The big trees so inspired early visitors that in 1864, in the midst of the Civil War, Congress passed landmark legislation and President Lincoln signed it to permanently preserve both the Mariposa Grove and Yosemite Valley “for public use, resort, and recreation” (Act of June 30, 1864).

The last 150 years of human intervention in the Grove has been brief in comparison to the lifespan of the giants, but during this time, we have had a profound impact on these giant trees. The Mariposa Grove Restoration project aims to restore dynamic ecological processes and enhance the resiliency of this treasured grove to withstand emerging stressors such as climate change. The time frame for this restoration project is relatively brief, but will have a profound impact in restoring habitat for young sequoias and enhancing the hardiness of the ecosystem to withstand a changing climate.

The need for this project is evidenced by the denuded, eroded, and compacted soils around the base of the giant trees. Roadside ditches and clogged culverts are diverting vital water away from the giant sequoia grove (Sequoias use hundreds of gallons of water per day.). In several areas of the grove, the road winds very close to the trees. As the giant sequoias continue to grow larger in diameter, the width of the road

continues to grow smaller, adversely affecting the trees. Limited visitor parking and lack of adequate signs within the grove creates congestion and frustration for visitors. The natural quiet of the grove is disrupted by the sounds of various vehicles including trucks, cars, busses, commercial trams, and an electrical generator that provides power for the existing gift shop and tram ticket booth.

To address these issues, Yosemite National Park, in partnership with the Yosemite Conservancy, has prepared a draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) to restore giant sequoia habitat within the Mariposa Grove. Four alternatives were developed including a No Action Alternative. The park identified Alternative 2 (South Entrance Hub) as the Preferred Alternative. Under this alternative, most public parking, the gift shop, and the concessioner-operated commercial tram staging area and tram

operations would be removed from Mariposa Grove to allow for restoration of wetlands, soundscapes, and giant sequoia habitat. Impervious surfaces within the Grove would be reduced.

The preferred alternative would also reduce traffic congestion and improve the visitor experience by establishing a new parking and transportation hub near the South Entrance station that includes a visitor contact area with information and orientation to the grove. Visitors could either park and travel the two miles to the grove by shuttle bus or hike on a new trail into the grove. Accessible pathways would be constructed within the area of the lower grove and Grizzly Giant, and would include new signs and displays to interpret the giant sequoias. Visitors with accessible parking placards would be able to drive their vehicle to the lower portion of the grove and to the Grizzly Giant.

For a copy of the plan and a complete description of the alternatives, please visit the park’s website at (<http://www.nps.gov/yose/parkmgmt/mgrove.htm>). Comments can be submitted until May 7th on the Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/mariposagrove>. Comments made through the PEPC website are the preferred method of submission. Comments can also be sent via email to [yose\\_planning@nps.gov](mailto:yose_planning@nps.gov) or via U.S. mail to: Superintendent, Yosemite National Park Attn: Mariposa Grove Restoration Plan, P.O. Box 577, Yosemite, CA 95389.

*Sue Beatty has worked as a restoration ecologist in Yosemite National Park for the last twelve years. She manages a variety of restoration projects including meadow, wetland, and stream bank restoration.*

The park, park partners, and gateway communities are planning a multitude of activities and projects that will commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Yosemite Grant Act, a bill that ushered in the national park idea and started the CA State Park system. Over 100 activities are being planned to occur in gateway communities and in the park from the fall of 2013 through the summer of 2014. These include anniversary activities like art contests, poetry readings, parades, film festivals, academic lectures, symphonies, and living history. Find out more: [www.nps.gov/yose/anniversary](http://www.nps.gov/yose/anniversary)

In addition to the activities, our primary legacy project is restoring the Mariposa Grove. The Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias, the largest of three groves within Yosemite National Park, contains 484 mature giant sequoia trees. Giant sequoias are a superlative species, being among the rarest, oldest and largest living organisms in the world.



INSPIRING GENERATIONS

# Supporting Your Park

Providing for Yosemite's Future

## Enhance the Visitor Experience

It takes a legion of people working together to protect this special park for you and future generations of visitors. You too can extend your connection to Yosemite well after you return home by getting involved with the organizations that partner to preserve Yosemite.

This publication was made possible by the Yosemite Park Partners listed on this page. Read more below or visit [www.yosemitepartners.org](http://www.yosemitepartners.org) to learn more about helping these organizations provide for the future of Yosemite National Park.

### The Ansel Adams Gallery

The Ansel Adams Gallery, owned by the family of photographer Ansel Adams since 1902, is a center that celebrates the arts and the natural grandeur of our environment. It cultivates an aesthetic appreciation and concern for our world by offering visitors a unique variety of literature and art, as well as programs that inspire creativity. Visit online at: [www.anseladamsgallery.com](http://www.anseladamsgallery.com).



### Contact Us

#### Yosemite National Park

PO Box 577  
9039 Village Drive  
Yosemite, CA 95389  
209/372-0200  
<http://www.nps.gov/yose/contacts.htm>

#### DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite

PO Box 578  
Yosemite, CA 95389  
801/559-5000  
[www.yosemitepark.com](http://www.yosemitepark.com)

#### NatureBridge

PO Box 487  
Yosemite, CA 95389  
209/379-9511  
209/379-9510 fax  
[www.naturebridge.org](http://www.naturebridge.org)

#### The Ansel Adams Gallery

PO Box 455  
Yosemite, CA 95389  
209/372-4413  
209/372-4714 fax  
[www.anseladams.com](http://www.anseladams.com)

#### Yosemite Conservancy

101 Montgomery Street, Suite 1700  
San Francisco, CA 94104  
800/469-7275  
415/434-0745 fax  
[www.yosemiteconservancy.org](http://www.yosemiteconservancy.org)

### DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite

DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite (DNC) operates hotels, restaurants, sightseeing tours, recreational activities, interpretive programs, stores, shuttles and service stations in the park under contract with the U.S. Department of the Interior. DNC encourages its employees to develop a strong relationship with the park during their tenure.

For more information and employment opportunities with DNC at Yosemite, visit online at: [www.YosemitePark.com](http://www.YosemitePark.com)



### NatureBridge

NatureBridge provides residential field science programs for youth in the world's most spectacular classroom - Yosemite National Park. Through active student engagement, our faculty teaches science, history, and the arts and gives these subjects context through personal experience. A NatureBridge learning adventure strives to foster a life-long connection to the natural world and responsible actions to sustain it. Find out more about our year-round programs for schools and summer programs for individual teens at [www.naturebridge.org/yosemite](http://www.naturebridge.org/yosemite)



### Yosemite Conservancy

Through the support of donors, Yosemite Conservancy provides grants and support to Yosemite National Park to help preserve and protect Yosemite today and for future generations. The work funded by Yosemite Conservancy is visible throughout the park, from trail rehabilitation to wildlife protection and habitat restoration. The Conservancy is dedicated to enhancing the visitor experience and providing a deeper connection to the park through outdoor programs, volunteering and wilderness services. Thanks to dedicated supporters, the Conservancy has provided more than \$75 million in grants to Yosemite National Park. Donate now or learn more at [www.yosemiteconservancy.org](http://www.yosemiteconservancy.org) or call 1-800-469-7275.



*Providing For Yosemite's Future*

## Park Planning Updates

### Leave a legacy, comment on a plan

Yosemite National Park is planning for the future. As part of our efforts to ensure that the park is protected for future generations, we are seeking comments on a draft management plan for the Merced River and a restoration plan the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias. We encourage you to help us leave a legacy for future generations by learning about the plan and providing feedback. The Merced Wild and Scenic River Draft Comprehensive Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement will be open for comment through April 18, 2013. The Restoration of the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias Draft Environmental Impact Statement is available for review and public comment through May 7, 2013.

Visit Yosemite's planning webpage to find out more about the draft plans and opportunities for public input: <http://www.nps.gov/yose/parkmgmt/planning.htm>

### Monthly Public Open House

Join park and partner staff to learn about the draft plan for the restoration of the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias at a free monthly public open house! An open house will be held on April 24, 2013, from 1-4pm in the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center Auditorium. *Park entrance fees will be waived for those attending the open house!*

